

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 30, 2001

Contacts: Pat Patterson, WSF-Public Affairs Office
206-515-3410
Robin Herberger, Media Coordinator,
425-828-9668

Washington State Ferries turning the big 5-0

Public invited to help celebrate by contributing personal "Ferry Tales"
Winning contest entries become part of state archives and go in WSF time capsule

SEATTLE -- Washington State Ferries (WSF) will celebrate its 50th birthday on June 1, 2001. Part of the upcoming celebration will focus on preserving a half century worth of personal memories involving experiences connected to the ferries.

In conjunction with the Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI) and HistoryLink, WSF is soliciting personal stories and anecdotes from riders and employees. The best passenger and best employee "ferry tale" from each of the last five decades will become part of the state's archives, MOHAI's archives, and will be placed in the WSF time capsule -- which will be uncovered in 2051 on the ferry system's 100th birthday. Winners will also participate in the main event at Colman Dock on June 1, which will feature invited dignitaries, elementary school winners of a WSF essay contest, and a free lunch time concert featuring Jr. Cadillac. (*MEDIA NOTE: A complete event schedule will be released later this week.*)

Ferry riders have had some amazing things happen to them over the years, including chance encounters that led to a romance, a business venture, engagements, and other life-changing experiences -- even babies delivered on board. Funny stories, poignant stories, unforgettable and unique Pacific Northwest stories.

To enter: Send "Ferry Tales" (up to one page) by May 18 to Washington State Ferries, ATTN: Public Affairs/Ferry Tale Contest, 2911 - 2nd Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121, or e-mail to patterp@wsdot.wa.gov.

Stories submitted after May 18 will not be considered for the contest, but will still be included in MOHAI's permanent archives.

Close to half a billion people have ridden Washington State Ferries since the system was founded on June 1, 1951. It is the largest marine highway system in the United States, and the third largest in the world. Last year, 27 million passengers rode on Washington State Ferries -- more people than travel on Amtrak nationwide.

More information about Washington State Ferries may be found on its website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries, and at HistoryLink.org.